

## STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Minnesota was the first State to offer volunteer soldiers for the defense of the Union in 1861; and

WHEREAS: The Battle of Gettysburg inflicted the highest number of casualties during the Civil War, and proved to be the

turning point of the Eastern Campaign; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota was represented during the Battle of Gettysburg by the First and Second Companies of Minnesota

Sharpshooters and the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel William J. Colvill, who led an assault late on July 2, which repelled the Confederate advance on Cemetery Ridge, a decisive moment of the

battle; and

WHEREAS: The First Minnesota Infantry sustained an extremely high number of casualties, on July 2 and 3, 1863, in

preserving a key defensive position in the Union line during the Battle of Gettysburg; the casualties on July 2 were in excess of 80 percent, representing one of the highest regimental casualty rates for any battle in the war;

and

WHEREAS: Gettysburg National Cemetery, which is located on the battlefield, was established and dedicated in 1863 and

was the place of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; and

WHEREAS: Gettysburg National Cemetery is the final resting place of more than 3,500 Union Soldiers, including 52 from

Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: In the Fall of 1867, surviving veterans of the First Minnesota, in recognition of the service of the brave soldiers

who gave their lives in the Battle of Gettysburg, placed a memorial, a marble urn, on the grounds of Gettysburg

National Cemetery in the Minnesota Section; and

WHEREAS: The First Minnesota Urn in the National Cemetery was the first memorial placed on the Gettysburg battlefield;

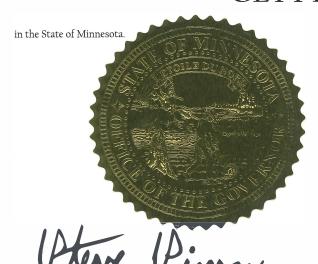
and

WHEREAS: On November 18, 2017, Remembrance Day, a delegation will honor the memory of Minnesotans who gave their

lives in the Battle of Gettysburg, and rededicate and lay a wreath at the Minnesota Urn, on the 150<sup>th</sup>
Anniversary of the placing of the Urn, while Minnesotans and First Minnesota descendants here today and

across the State and Country remember the sacrifices made to preserve the Union.

## MINNESOTA REMEMBRANCE DAY AT GETTYSBURG



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this  $3^{\rm rd}$  day of November.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE